

Agreement between South Cambridgeshire District Council and Waterbeach Parish Council: Working together on future projects including the Neighbourhood Plan

Introduction

Waterbeach Parish Council submitted an application to South Cambridgeshire District Council to designate the whole of its parish as a neighbourhood area. South Cambridgeshire District Council carried out a public consultation on this application. At a meeting of the Planning Portfolio Holder on 10 August 2015 it was agreed to designate the whole parish subject to the District and Parish Councils agreeing a framework for how they will work together.

Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to establish key principles of the working relationship between Waterbeach Parish Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council. This recognises a number of strategic factors, proposals and projects that will affect Waterbeach and the surrounding area in the future. These include:

- South Cambridgeshire Local Plan examination
- Development Framework Document to be prepared for the proposed new town to the north of Waterbeach, and the potential planning application
- City Deal - A10 corridor future key priority
- Other proposals as they emerge

The District Council in deciding to designate the whole parish wishes to ensure that all parties will work together to achieve the best outcomes for Waterbeach, its local community and the District.

Nothing in this agreement is intended to prevent Waterbeach Parish Council from responding freely to planning applications or making submissions to the current Local Plan examination concerning the ways this plan might affect Waterbeach in the future.

Roles and responsibilities

This agreement confirms:

South Cambridgeshire District Council will

- Be responsible for the strategic element of planning for proposed new major developments
- Take the lead on bringing forward Strategic Sites included in the Submission Local Plan when approved by the inspectors.
- Liaise with Waterbeach Parish Council and the promoters of the proposed new developments contained in the Submission Local Plan to bring forward their successful implementation when approved by the inspectors, or brought forward through a planning application.
- To ensure Waterbeach Parish Council are able at an early stage to bring their local knowledge to assist in planning for sustainable proposed new developments through engaging on future planning applications and master planning.

- Work with Waterbeach Parish Council to ensure it is kept informed of progress on proposed new developments and the wider emerging Local Plan, sharing information, as far as reasonably possible, for example without breaching commercial confidentiality.
- Work with stakeholders including Waterbeach Parish Council to develop options for the A10 corridor as part of a future City Deal priority.
- Offer the opportunity for Waterbeach Parish Council to enter into a neighbourhood plan agreement to set out clearly the roles and responsibilities of each council in preparing a neighbourhood plan for Waterbeach.

Waterbeach Parish Council will

- Work with the District Council bringing their local knowledge of the Waterbeach area to inform future planning and development in the area.
- Prepare a neighbourhood plan, in consultation with the local community that will focus on the priorities outlined in the parish statement included with their neighbourhood area application.
- Engage with promoters of any proposed new developments to ensure they are suitable, sustainable and as successful as can be as part of an adopted Local Plan and/or potential planning applications if forthcoming for both existing and new residents and South Cambridgeshire District.

Working Relationships

The parties to this agreement seek:

- a. an open and constructive working relationship
- b. to respect each other's views and, where different, after discussion to ensure proper understanding of the reasons for such differences.
- c. to have a 'no surprises' policy, based on notifying each other well in advance, where possible, of significant announcements and developments in policy.
- d. to minimise duplication of activity wherever possible.
- e. to inform other stakeholders about our relationship so as to reduce uncertainty.
- f. to ensure a good working relationship on an ongoing basis with regular meetings between the District and Parish Council, which shall be held at least four times each year.

Date and nature of Agreement

It is expected that this Agreement will be a live document to be reviewed and updated annually by agreement of both parties.

Jo Mills

Jo Mills
Director of Planning and New Communities
Cambridgeshire District Council

Date: 28 August 2015

Elizabeth Jones

Elizabeth Jones
Clerk to Waterbeach Parish Council South
Waterbeach Parish Council

Date: 1 September 2015